

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7777

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT PROP PE

SUBJ: ACCESS TO MEDIA FOR PERU'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION
CAMPAIGN

REF: LIMA 10147

1. THE DECEMBER 1 GOP DECREE REGARDING ACCESS TO THE MEDIA FOR THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE JUNE 1978 ELECTIONS TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AIMS AT ASSURING EQUITABLE AND RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE ACCESS TO PRESS, TV AND RADIO FOR ALL THE REGISTERED CONTENDERS IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE SIXTEEN ARTICLES OF SUPREME DECREE NO. 003-77-OC1/OAJ (COPY BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT) SPELL OUT IN SOME DETAIL THE SPACE IN PUBLICATIONS AND THE RADIO AND TV TIME THAT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO POLITICAL GROUPS EITHER WITH LOWERED RATES OR WITHOUT CHARGE.

2. A SPECIAL COMMISSION OF SIX MEMBERS WILL HAVE OPERATIONAL AND JUDICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CARRYING OUT OF THE DECREE LAW. CHAIRED BY ONE OF TWO DELEGATES FROM THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION, THE COMMISSION'S OTHER FOUR MEMBERS INCLUDE TWO DELEGATES EACH FROM THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF INFORMATION. THE COMMISSION WILL COORDINATE PLANNING BETWEEN POLITICAL GROUPS AND THE MEDIA AS WELL AS RECEIVE
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COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE FORM AND CONTENT OF CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA. THE SPECIAL COMMISSION'S POWERS INCLUDE APPLICATION OF FINES OR SUSPENSION OF THE POLITICAL GROUP'S ACCESS TO THE PRESS, TV OR RADIO FOR VIOLATION OF EXISTING STATUTES SUCH AS THOSE PROHIBITING INSULTS TO "INDIVIDUALS OR INSTITUTIONS". THESE DECISIONS CAN BE APPEALED TO THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION BUT THE SPECIAL COMMISSION WILL OBVIOUSLY PLAY A

KEY ROLE IN THE MEDIA SIDE OF THE CAMPAIGN.

3. BOTH STATE AND NON-GOVERNMENT OWNED PUBLICATIONS ARE NOW CHARGED WITH PROVIDING A FIXED AMOUNT OF SPACE FOR POLITICAL OPINIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, THE PROVISION OF CUT-RATE OR FREE RADIO AND TV TIME OR PRESS COVERAGE WILL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL SIXTY DAYS PRIOR TO ELECTIONS AND THUS WILL BE GRANTED ONLY TO THOSE GROUPS WHICH HAVE BEEN REGISTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT (ESSENTIALLY REGISTRATION HINGES ON THE COLLECTION OF 40,000 SIGNATURES BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1978).

4. COMMENT: THE DECREE APPEARS EQUITABLE IN REDUCING EXCESSIVE ADVANTAGES FOR WEALTHIER POLITICAL POLITICAL GROUPS AND ASSURING SUBSTANTIAL ACCESS TO PRESS, RADIO AND TV TO THOSE ORGANIZATIONS THAT MEET THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW STRICTLY THE SPECIAL COMMISSION CHOOSES TO APPLY ITS POST CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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